Group III: Claims 1-21, 25 and 30, drawn to a method of treating or preventing inflammation in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an antagonist to αEβ7 or further comprising administering another therapeutic agent wherein the other therapeutic agent is an immunomodulator agent.

Group IV: Claims 31-40, drawn to a method of screening for a substance effective in reducing the inflammatory effects of αEβ7.

Group V: Claim 41, drawn to a composition comprising an αEβ7 antagonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Group VI: Claim 42, drawn to a composition comprising an αEβ7 antibody and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Group VII: Claim 43, drawn to a composition comprising an αEβ7 antibody and a second anti-inflammatory agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The Office Action further states that a single disclosed species must also be elected to which claims would be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable and to list all claims readable thereon. The Examiner lists species of group I, II or III as A-H, including "D. inflammatory diseases" and requires an election of a single species from this list (paragraph 9 of Office Action).

Applicants respectfully request that the entire restriction requirement be reconsidered because the present application is a national phase application under 37 C.F.R. § 371 and no unity of invention issue was raised during prosecution of original claims 1-43 in the PCT application by either the International Search Authority or the International Preliminary Examination Authority.

As required in response to this Action, applicants provisionally elect Group I (claims 1-23 and 26-28), with traverse.

With regard to the species election, applicants traverse this requirement as it is stated, because it appears to be improper. The list of species does not make sense, since it includes inflammatory diseases as a species, when, in fact, the genus of inflammatory diseases includes every other disease listed as a species. Thus claims 1-3, 11-13 and 26-28, directed to the treatment of inflammation (inflammatory diseases), are generic to the specific diseases of claims 4-10 and 14-23. It is noted that if the Office maintains that inflammatory diseases is a species, every claim in the elected group, group I, would read on that species.

Thus, if the present improper species election is maintained, applicants provisionally elect "species" D. inflammatory diseases. Claims 1-23 and 26-28 are readable upon this "species."

However, if the species election is reconsidered and found to be improper for the reasons stated above, applicants provisionally elect species A. inflammatory bowel disease. Claims 1-4, 11-14 and 26-28 are readable upon this species.

Applicants acknowledge that at least claims 1-4, 11-14 and 26-28 will be under examination, and that upon allowance of any of generic claims 1-3, 11-13 or 26-28, a reasonable number of other species will also be examined. Each of the other species claims depends from a generic claim.

No additional fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.14-0629.

Respectfully submitted

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date shown below.

Gwendolyn D. Spratt — 6-6-02

Gwendolyn D. Spratt — Date